

**MINUTES OF THE EAST GREENWICH SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
MEETING**

**TUESDAY, APRIL 22, 2008**

**Hanaford School Cafeteria**

**200 Middle Road**

**East Greenwich, RI 02818**

**ANY ITEMS CONSIDERED BY SCHOOL COMMITTEE MAY BE  
SUBJECT TO A**

**VOTE**

**7:00p.m. Executive Session**

**The following items may be discussed in Executive Session:**

**RIGL 42-46-5 (a) (2) Teacher Contract Negotiations**

**Call to Order**

**The School Committee meeting was called to order at 7:30p.m. in the Hanaford School Cafeteria. Members present were: Sue Cienki, Chair, Skip Day, Vice-chair, Anne Palumbo, Mary Ellen Winters, Merrill Friedemann, JeanAnn Guliano, and Susan Records as well as Superintendent Charles Meyers, Director of Administration, Maryanne Crawford, Assistant Superintendent Helen O'Hara, and Director of Facilities Robert Wilmarth. The meeting commenced with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.**

**2. Public Comments**

**Heather Tibbetts, Hickory Drive, stated that parents have worked with the teachers and they support getting the agreement in place.**

**3. Recognitions**

**3.1 Tyler Burke, Cole Middle School student, was recognized for winning the Fair Housing Award essay contest in East Greenwich.**

**3.2 Cole Middle students, Mike Murphy, Todd Rosenberg, and Mike McWeeney, were recognized for winning first place in the Robotics Challenge at the RI Technology Student Association's Tech Fair. Kara Summerly won 2nd place, John Hutchinson won 2nd place in the CADD Competition, and John Hutchinson and Marcus Caron won 2nd place in the Structural Challenge. Steve Garneau, Cole Teacher, is the Advisor for the Robotics Club.**

#### **4. Approval of Minutes**

**4.1 On a motion made by Mr. Day and seconded by Mrs. Winters, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the following minutes: March 11 and April 1 minutes and April 1 executive session**

#### **5. New Business**

##### **5.1 Appointments**

**5.1.1 Jeannine Nota-Masse, East Greenwich High School Principal. Mr. Meyers stated that it is great to have someone of Mrs. Nota-Masse's caliber as the new high school principal. Mrs. Palumbo made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Winters to approve the appointment. The motion passed with Mrs. Friedemann recusing herself. Mrs. Guliano noted that her contract is for one year with an extension and she will be paid \$104,000. It was noted that \$108,000 was budgeted and Mrs. Friedemann would like a memo stating where the \$4,000 will be put back into the budget.**

##### **5.1.2 Lisa Sussman, COA Director**

**Mrs. Palumbo made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Winters**

to approve the appointment of Lisa Sussman as COA Director. The motion passed unanimously.

### **5.1.3 Peter Tausek, Intramural Volleyball Coach at Cole Middle School**

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Mrs. Palumbo made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Winters to approve the appointment of Peter Tausek as Intramural Volleyball Coach at Cole Middle School.

### **6. Report on the Town Energy Commission's recycling efforts**

It was noted that this is a newly formed committee. Rachel Rossetti, a Cole student, gave a presentation about the dangers of Sodexo using styrofoam for lunch trays at Cole. Mrs. Palumbo stated that she and the Superintendent met with Aramark about the use of styrofoam and they have investigated alternatives. Mrs. Friedemann asked if we were going out to bid for a school lunch provider. Mrs. Crawford responded that the state is going with Aramark. Mrs. Friedemann would like justification for the statewide bid and to see what other entities are doing.

### **7. Restructuring of Administrative Positions**

Mr. Meyers noted that the position of assistant superintendent will be eliminated at a savings of \$25,000, as well as a supervisor of elementary education at a savings of \$25,000. He added that hiring a new high school principal will result in a savings of \$10,000. He noted that the elementary principals will assume more responsibility for supervision.

## **8. Presentation from Patricia Page and Gregory DeCubellis on the High School Senior Project**

**Mrs. Page and Mr. DeCubellis introduced Dr. Sally Thibodeau from Providence College regarding the partnership for the Senior Project which provides support for all students. Mr. DeCubellis stated that six hours were spent training the Providence College students, and all papers were double scored. Dr. Thibodeau noted that this is a real world experience for PC students. She added that the faculty at the high school is very committed to this project. Mr. DeCubellis recognized Ryan Lynch and Tim Kenney from the English Department at the high school. It was noted that May 14 is the Senior Project judging.**

**Ms. Donna Hayes, co-president of the EGEA, stated that she admires her colleagues but high school reform means big changes for students and faculty at the high school. She noted that the EGEA is concerned about PC students assessing student work. She added that the high school faculty has highly qualified teachers and this should be incorporated into the high school senior project. Ms. Hayes stated that the EGEA would like to be involved in the future. Mrs. Friedemann asked if we would have to pay teachers overtime for doing this work. She also noted that there is nothing better than having young people involved and we should support this. Ms. Hayes stated tat she would look into what other high schools are doing but it is about PC students involved in grading.**

**Heather Tibbetts stated that she supports the PC students coming in and feels students should present their work to people they don't**

know. Mr. Meyers stated that we have an obligation for the partnership to continue to work on this.

#### **9. Approval of Contract with East Greenwich Education Association**

Mrs. Palumbo made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Guliano to approve the contract with the EGEA for 2007-2008 and 2008-2009. The motion passed with Mrs. Friedemann and Mr. Day voting no.

#### **10. Approval of Salary Increases and Insurance Co-Share for Administrators**

Mr. Day made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Friedemann to approve a 2.4% increase for administrators and a 20% buyback for the 2007-2008 and 2008-2009 school years. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **11. First Reading of Energy Policy**

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Mr. Meyers stated that all new equipment must be energy star compliant. He stated that Meadowbrook and Hanaford are recycling at lunchtime. Mrs. Friedemann stated that we need to develop a policy.

#### **12. Discussion of budget hearings from April 9 and 10, 2008**

Mrs. Friedemann would like to speak about purchased services and would like to have a purchasing policy put on the agenda. She sees some things in that area that that we should look at. Mrs. Friedemann feels we need more control over purchased services. Mrs. Crawford stated there is a purchasing policy and we will review it and bring the information back to school Committee. Mrs. Friedemann asked Mrs. Crawford where the money will go now that we have saved on administrative salaries and co-shares. Mrs. Guliano asked if we have

a line item for contingencies. Mrs. Crawford stated that we have money in the savings from retirements, but we don't see the savings because they are one time savings. Mrs. Friedemann asked if there is anything being done in the legislature to reduce retirement benefits. Mrs. Crawford responded that it is in committee at the State House. Mrs. Cienki stated that we under budgeted for health insurance for two years of retirements and need to make adjustments.

### **13. School Committee Concerns**

A Celtic Festival is being held at Meadowbrook on Saturday, March 26.

The Meadowbrook Farms Playground will be dedicated on Thursday, April 24.

### **14. Adjournment**

On a motion made by Mr. Day and seconded by Mrs. Friedemann, the Committee voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:30p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Virginia Giuliani

Secretary